

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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TAGS: PFOR, SREF, US, OAU

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEE STUDENT PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 129063

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH FMG INTEREST IN SASP AND SATP MARGINAL,
EMBASSY BELIEVES THEY SHOULD BE CONTINUED.END SUMMARY

1. IN REPLY TO REFTEL WISH TO POINT OUT THAT TO BEST OF
EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE THERE HAVE BEEN NO SATP OR SASP
PARTICIPANTS COMING OUT OF NIGERIA. IN ADDITION IT
WOULD APPEAR THAT FMG INTEREST IN THESE TYPES OF PROGRAMS
IS MARGINAL, LARGELY BECAUSE FMG SEES THEM AS
PERIPHERAL TO CENTRAL POLITICAL ISSUE OF MAJORITY RULE.
IN ADDITION, NIGERIA HAS VERY FEW REFUGEES FROM
SOUTHERN AFRICA IN COUNTRY. GIVEN THESE CONDITIONS
EMBASSY COMMENTS ON POINTS RAISED REFTEL CAN ONLY BE
OF GENERAL NATURE.

2. REGARDING NEED TO MAINTAIN SATP AND SASP, BELIEVE
IT ESSENTIAL THAT THESE PROGRAMS BE CONTINUED. AS
DEPT. WELL AWARE, US POSTURE ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN
ISSUES IS FAR FROM FAVORABLE IN EYES OF NIGERIANS
AND REST OF AFRICA. SASP AND SATP ARE TANGIBLE
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EVIDENCE, ALBEIT LIMITED, THAT US IS NOT SIDING WITH
RACISTS AND COLONIALISTS AND IS PREPARED IN SMALL WAY

TO RISK CRITICISM FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND PORTUGAL BY PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WORTHWHILE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CANDIDATES. TO DROP THESE PROGRAMS WOULD PROVIDE AFRICANS WITH ADDITIONAL REASONS FOR FEELING THAT US NOT INTERESTED IN PLIGHT OF SOUTHERN AFRICANS. ALSO, DESPITE NIGERIAN MARGINAL INTEREST IN THESE PARTICULAR PROGRAMS, THEIR TERMINATION COULD EASILY RESULT IN POINTED CRITICISM BY FMG OFFICIALS.

3. BELIEVE, THEREFORE, PROGRAMS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE EXERTED TO FIND SUFFICIENT CANDIDATES TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMS. IN THIS CONNECTION BELIEVE THAT NAME SASP SHOULD NOT BE DROPPED SINCE IT IS RELATED WITH REFUGEES FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA. SASP IS WELL KNOWN AMONG THESE REFUGEES AS WELL AS AMONG VARIOUS AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS.

4. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, UN HAS ITS OWN EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICK REFUGEES. IN ADDITION IT IS IN THE PROCESS OF COORDINATING WITH THE OAU TYPE OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE ISSUED TO DESERVING CANDIDATES AS WELL AS WHO SHOULD RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS. THIS IS BEING DONE BOTH IN ADDIS AND THROUGH THE OAU OFFICE IN NEW YORK. THEREFORE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT IN ADDITION TO GETTING REFERRALS FROM LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WE COULD USEFULLY APPROACH UN AND OAU FOR POTENTIAL REFERRALS. DESPITE FACT OAU HAS NOT BEEN RESPONSIVE TO OUR APPROACHES AS INDICATED PARA 2 REFTTEL, BELIEVE RENEWED EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO SEEK OAU COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER BOTH IN NEW YORK AND ADDIS. UNHCR COULD ALSO BE GOOD REFERRAL SOURCE.
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